

sub-divisions of counties as much as possible. It is considered objectionable to make representation a mere geographical term. It is desired, as much as possible, to keep the representation within the county, so that each county that is a municipality of Ontario should be represented."

That is the broad principle laid down by Sir John Macdonald himself at the time of confederation and I believe that it is a sound one. Now I am asked to-day to take another view—the very opposite to that. I am asked to vote for this measure. I cannot do so, not merely because it violates the principle to which I have referred, but because we have seen, ever since confederation, how minorities may be dealt with. The majority of to-day may be in a minority to-morrow, and if I give my vote in support of such a proposition to-day how could I condemn my opponents, if they should follow this precedent in the future? I have thought over this question, and asked myself how I should like to have a couple of parishes of another county added to Laval to increase its population. I should consider it improper and feel that Sir John Macdonald's view of this matter fifteen years ago was the correct one. True, it has been said that if the other side were in power they would seize this opportunity to strengthen their party.

HON. MR. POWER—Oh no!

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—The hon. gentleman says "Oh no!" I say Oh yes! But while I believe they would do so, am I here to do what I believe to be wrong simply because I know that others would act improperly under similar circumstances?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Certainly not.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I must do my duty honestly and conscientiously. I must bear in mind that the people I represent are in a minority, and that they are continually ill-treated. If they were sufficiently powerful, the question of marriage, which was decided this session to be within the jurisdiction of this Parliament, would have been decided in accordance with the interpretation which the framers of the Constitution placed on record at the time of Confederation. Therefore, though hon. gentlemen oppo-

site would, if they had the chance, do as their opponents are now doing, I cannot, as a representative of a minority, countenance this measure.

HON. MR. CHAPPAIS—The Opposition have done worse.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—They would do worse, I believe, if they had the opportunity, but that is no argument. I must pursue a course which will give them no pretext in the future, if they should be in office, to abuse their power. If I do what is right now, I can in the future, if occasion calls for it, condemn them for trampling upon the rights of the people. This, then, is my position: I cannot support the amendment, because Ontario is entitled to increased representation, and the amendment, if carried, would deny it; but if amendments in the right direction are proposed, I shall either vote for them or abstain from voting altogether.

HON. MR. POWER—There is some force in the objection which has been raised by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, but I do not think the objection is one that is strong enough to prevail. It seems to me that it would be more becoming at this stage of the session for the Senate to throw out this Bill altogether than to undertake to go into its details and reconstruct it. I think it is improbable that the amendment will prevail, but if it did the probabilities are that we would have another bill from the House of Commons of a more satisfactory character than this in a short time. I know that the friends of the hon. gentleman from Ottawa in the other House would assist the Government in preparing another measure on this subject which would come up very soon; so I do not think the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudière need fear that Ontario would lose the additional representation, to which she is entitled, if this motion was carried. The hon. gentleman said the principle of the Bill was to give Ontario an additional four members. There are more things than that involved in the measure. A very important feature of it is to do away with the system of having registrars and sheriffs act as returning officers. That is almost as important as having four additional members.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—If I could